

ACTION: Correction to the Draft Programmatic and Phase III Early Restoration Plan and Draft Early Restoration Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the Framework Agreement for Early Restoration Addressing Injuries Resulting from the *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill, the Federal and State natural resource trustee agencies (Trustees) prepared a Draft Programmatic and Phase III Early Restoration Plan and Draft Early Restoration Environmental Impact Statement (Draft Phase III ERP/PEIS). The Draft Phase III ERP/PEIS considers programmatic alternatives to restore natural resources, ecological services, and recreational use services injured or lost as a result of the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill. The restoration alternatives are comprised of early restoration project types. The Trustees additionally propose forty-four specific early restoration projects that are consistent with the proposed early restoration program alternatives. The Trustees have developed restoration alternatives and projects to utilize funds for early restoration being provided under the Framework for Early Restoration Addressing Injuries Resulting from the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill (Framework Agreement). Criteria and evaluation standards under the OPA natural resource damage assessment regulations and Framework Agreement guided the Trustees' consideration of programmatic restoration alternatives. The Draft Phase III ERP/PEIS evaluates these restoration alternatives and projects under criteria set forth in the OPA natural resource damage assessment regulations and the Framework Agreement. The Draft Phase III ERP/PEIS also evaluates the environmental consequences of the restoration alternatives and projects under NEPA.

On December 6, 2013, the United States Department of the Interior (DOI), as the lead federal agency for preparing the Draft Phase III ERP/PEIS, released the Draft Phase III ERP/PEIS and invited public comment on the document. On December 13, 2013, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency published a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register (78 F.R. 75919) for the Draft Phase III ERP/PEIS. The cover sheet to the Draft Phase III ERP/PEIS included a list of federal and state agencies that are serving as cooperating agencies pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and DOI's regulations implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. § 1508.5; 43 C.F.R. § 46.225). This list included an error by not identifying the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, as well as the Geological Survey of Alabama, as cooperating agencies pursuant to the CEQ and DOI regulations implementing NEPA.